



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING &
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Deval L. Patrick, Governor ♦ Timothy P. Murray, Lt. Governor ♦ Gregory Bialecki, Secretary, EOHED

**CDBG One-Year Action Plan
FY 2012 Proposed Changes**

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) recently posted potential changes to aspects of the CDBG program for FY 2012. DHCD held a public meeting to solicit input and has received additional written comment from a number of interested parties. In response, the following describes a revised set of proposed changes for the FY 2012 CDBG program.

D. APPLICANT/PROJECT THRESHOLDS

Timely Expenditure - Mass CDBG requires that all applicants – including lead applicants and joint participants – who have received grants comply with a timely expenditure threshold in order to apply for FY 2012 programs. If a joint participant has been a lead grantee in a CDBG grant, that community must meet the timely expenditure threshold in order to be included in a joint application.

For FY 2012, in order to apply for CDBG¹ funding, a community must demonstrate, using the most recent financial status report at the time of application that 100% of all grant funds awarded for fiscal year 2009 and earlier have been fully expended, 80% of funds awarded in FY 2010 have been expended and for funds awarded in FY 2011 all required procedural clearances (environmental review, special conditions and administrative services procurement(s)) have been completed at the time of an application for FY 2012 funds. On a case-by-case basis DHCD reserves the right to waive strict compliance with this threshold for communities based on grant award dates and/or events beyond the control of grantees.

F. AVAILABILITY OF CDBG PROGRAM FUNDS

A single community may receive no more than \$1.35 million from Community Development Fund I within two successive program years. Economic Development Fund and Reserves awards are not subject to the \$1.35 million cap per community.

Application Due Dates for CDBG FY 2012 Program:

Community Development Fund:	December 16, 2011
Mini-Entitlement Program:	December 16, 2011
Economic Development Fund:	Applications accepted on an ongoing basis

¹ CDBG includes CDF I and II, Mini-Entitlement, EDF grants, and Reserves, but for the purposes of this calculation excludes loans from EDF and Section 108 guarantees. Planning-only grants of \$50,000 or less are also excluded from this calculation.

G. EVALUATION CRITERIA APPLICABLE TO ALL CDBG PROGRAMS

DHCD reserves the right to incorporate any or all of the following Evaluation, Regulatory and Performance criteria in its award decisions:

Performance:

- reduce an award to a community with an uncommitted program income balance of \$100,000 or more. Program income balances must be documented through submission of bank statements. The program income account balances in DHCD's Grant Management System must be maintained to match the bank program income account statement balances. Program income commitments must be documented through submission of award or commitment letters, appropriation language or other evidence deemed suitable by DHCD including signed contracts. Making program income funds available as part of a contingency plan will not be considered a commitment of those funds. Upon award, grantees must add the committed program income funds to the cited grant activity(ies) through the grant amendment process.

J. CDBG PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Grant Award Amounts – For FY 2012 maximum grant amounts for available categories are listed below.

Category - CDF I/CDF II	Minimum Grant from Competitive Round:	Maximum Grant from Competitive Round:
Single Community	\$ 100,000	\$ 800,000/\$700,000
Single Community w/multiple targeted activities	\$ 100,000	\$ 900,000/\$800,000
Two or Three Communities (Regional)	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,000,000/\$900,000
Four or More Communities (Regional)	\$ 100,000	\$ 1,100,000/\$1,000,000
Planning- or Design-only grants	\$ 20,000	-----

Evaluation and Award Criteria

1. Applications will be scored on a 100-point system, with the potential for bonus points, as follows:

CRITERION	POINTS
Community Wide Needs	35
Project Packets	65
Total	100
Regional Bonus	2 per activity
Multiple Activities/Non-CDBG	Up to 10

Available Bonus Points

Regional activities - fundable activities that will serve multiple communities will receive an additional two points. Regional activities are defined as housing rehabilitation in multiple communities, social services provided to multiple communities, or shared facilities or planning/design activities that will be administered and bid centrally on behalf of regional participants.

3. MINI-ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM

Grant Award Amounts and Requirements

The maximum grant award is up to \$900,000. Mini-Entitlement applications will contain an 18-month implementation and cash flow plan. Mini-entitlement grantees must comply with standards for timely expenditure and available program income (see Applicant/Project Thresholds above). FY 2012 Mini-entitlement awards to Grantees that do not meet the required standards will be reduced by an amount necessary to bring the grantee into compliance.

DHCD will hold public hearings to receive comments on the proposed FY 2012 Action Plan prior to its submission to the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Times and locations will be distributed in the coming months. Interested parties should feel free to submit comments, in writing or via email, directly to DHCD any time prior to the scheduled hearings. Comments may be directed to: Mark Siegenthaler, Community Development Manager, DHCD, 100 Cambridge St, Suite 300, Boston, MA 02114 or mark.siegenthaler@state.ma.us.